

# 15. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Increasing requirements for specialized natural resources skills and continued reduction of the federal work force are making it necessary to rely on outside expertise to professionally manage natural resources. Outside technical assistance often is used to determine baselines or conduct planning level surveys with regard to status of ecosystems (for future comparisons), to directly evaluate management programs, and to implement portions of the Fort Richardson natural resources program.

## 15-1 Objectives

- ▶ Provide external assistance to support Fort Richardson natural resources management program
- ▶ Provide technical transfer of information to Fort Richardson management staff on all research and special projects conducted by agencies and contractors

## 15-2 Support Mechanisms

### 15-2a In-house Capabilities

The USARAK Natural Resources Branch is staffed with well-trained professionals who collectively possess a wealth of institutional knowledge. Their expertise and enthusiasm have resulted in a fine conservation program that melds smoothly with the military mission.

There are, however, some needs that go beyond in-house capabilities. Some studies and projects require very specialized academic training while others require more trained staff than are available at Fort Richardson. This is becoming more common under ever-increasing compliance and regulatory require-

ments. As a result, over the last several years, USARAK has been turning to contractors and outside academic resources to supplement its strong conservation program. Results, for the most part, have been very satisfactory.

USARAK has and will continue to oversee and maintain control of studies done by outside agencies or organizations on Army lands in Alaska. All wildlife, natural resources, or environmentally related studies and research on USARAK-controlled lands and waters require prior approval from USARAK Chief of Natural Resources. Furthermore, within the limits of these contracts, studies and research projects may be terminated at any time at the discretion of the USARAK Chief of Natural Resources.

### 15-2b Other Agency Personnel Assistance

The Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) of 1972 provides a means by which to conduct research or obtain other personnel assistance at Fort Richardson. Any state or federal agency is authorized to participate. IPA is basically a system where a federal (or state) agency borrows other federal or state agency personnel for a limited time period to do a specific job. The receiving agency pays the borrowed employee's salary and administrative overhead. There are two advantages: personnel are directly supervised by USARAK, and no manpower authorizations are required.

In 1998–2003, USARAK will consider using IPA agreements as a source of assistance for special projects. Those agencies that are partners for implementation of this INRMP are the most likely sources of this assistance.

### 15-2c University Assistance

Universities are a great source of research assistance. USARAK has contracted with several universities in recent years to help with specialized needs. Section 5-7 describes these efforts. Use of universities will continue as needed in 1998–2003.

### 15-2d Other Agency Support

Other agencies that will assist with implementing special projects and research described within this INRMP are listed in Chapter 5.

### 15-2e Contractor Support

USARAK may turn to outside contractors to conduct studies and projects. Contractors give ERD access to a wide variety of specialties and fields. Contractors often are involved with plan preparation, studies, evaluations, investigations, aerial census, and wildlife/natural resource monitoring. In

1998–2003, contractors will be used to assist with moose habitat improvements if in-house support is not available to meet all of the needs according to prescribed time schedules.

## 15-3 Planned External Assistance Projects

Table 15-3 indicates, in order of priority, projects requiring outside technical support.

On occasion, hunting and fishing activities could affect ongoing studies involving fish or wildlife. In these cases, USARAK Chief of Natural Resources has the authority to restrict these or other recreational activities to avoid conflicts. Under no circumstances can USARAK make current state hunting and fishing regulations more liberal without approval of the ADF&G and the Alaska Board of Game.

Table 15-3. Natural Resource Outside Technical Support Needs.

Project	Priority*	Agency	Completion	Comments
Soils Survey	1	NRCS	1998	Ongoing
Fish Management (stocking)	1	ADF&G	Indefinite	Ongoing
LCTA	1	CSU	Indefinite	Ongoing
GIS Operation	1	CSU	Indefinite	Ongoing
Wetlands Delineation, Classification, and Management Plan	1	WES	1998	Ongoing
Furbearer, Black Bear, and Raven Survey	2	ADF&G	2000	Ongoing - includes specific studies on ravens, black bears, and coyotes
Watchable Wildlife Brochure	2	CSU	1999	Ongoing
Fish Population Study	3	ADF&G	Uncertain	Proposed
Small Mammal Study	2	Undetermined	Indefinite	Proposed
ERF Remediation Video	2	CRREL	1999	Proposed
Spruce Bark Beetle Protection Plan	1	USFS	2000	Ongoing
Loon Habitat	3	USFWS ADF&G	2002	Proposed
Dall Sheep Winter Habitat Study	3	UAA	2001	Ongoing - 1997 start
Waterbird Survey	3	USFWS	1999	Ongoing
Natural Resources Video	3	CSU	2000	Proposed
Wood Frog Breeding Call Survey	3	ANHP	Indefinite	Ongoing -1998 start
Wood Frog Mark/Recapture Study	3	USFWS	Indefinite	Proposed
*1 Needed as soon as possible for immediate management application. *2 Useful for improving management to a significant degree over a long period of time. *3 Has good potential to improve long-term management.				